

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

APM-8

16 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with Dr. Brockway McMillan,
DNRO, 15 March 1963

1. McMillan raised the question of a request from Greer for authority to recall the LANYARD in the event of technical difficulty. I indicated I thought he already had this authority but in any case concurred that this would be desirable, particularly on the first shot since this was primarily an engineering shot. I believe that if time permitted, prior to such action Headquarters should be consulted. Greer apparently had also requested direct communications to the NRO Center.

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2. Mr. McMillan raised the question of the activation of the NRO operations center. He indicated that he thought an appropriate time would be following the next M shot since this would give a few weeks' interval in which to carry out several CPX's and check out the whole system. I concurred in this with the proviso that I would have to check it out with Mr. McCone on Tuesday when he returns. I also pointed out that programming and control of these missions, such as LANYARD, was more difficult than had originally been conceived and that a thorough review of what should be done in Washington and how it should be done was needed. I pointed out that we were developing a system using computers to assist in this activity.

3. A review was held of the proposed back-up program for satellite reconnaissance in accordance with USIB's request and my discussions with Charyk in early February. Howard presented a program which involved using the second A vehicle

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as a back-up either for M or A during June and July. This would be followed, beginning in August at the rate of 1 a month, by 6 back-up M systems using the ☐ These would be geared to permit launching on 7 days' notice. In order to get a one day's notice launching capability, three pads would have to be continuously tied up. This back-up program will require the purchase of 6 additional M payloads. The availability of special hardware is the factor limiting earlier back-up capabilities. This program will be prepared for Sec/Def's and DCI's approval by the latter part of next week.

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Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

ODDR:HScoville: ☐

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